

RESOLUTION: F2019-SR7

TITLE: Resolution in Support of Ethical Investing of Middlebury's Endowment

SPONSOR(S): Bobbi Finkelstein, Feb Senator; Elisa Gan, Student Liaison to the SGA on Endowment Affairs (SLSEA)

DATE: 11-24-2019

Whereas, Middlebury has shown its willingness to use divestment to demand social change, both with divestment from apartheid South Africa in 1981¹ and divestment from fossil-fuel companies with Energy2028,

Whereas, in a time of mass shootings and unparalleled gun violence², there is a growing movement to divest from weapon manufacturers, including the New York City's teachers' pension fund in 2013 and the Campaign to Unload movement,

Whereas, political gridlock makes it challenging to take timely action on social issues, such as gun violence, racial injustice, and climate change, making economic divestment an especially important action for social change,

Whereas, previous efforts from Middlebury's student body to encourage the Board of Trustees to invest more sustainably and ethically, such as the [Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investment \(ACSRI\)](#), have lost traction and faded out,

Whereas, Energy2028 and Middlebury's divestment from fossil fuels could offer Middlebury an opportunity to rearrange the endowment and shift our investments towards more ethical companies and sectors,

Therefore, be it resolved,

That, Middlebury's Student Liaison to the SGA on Endowment Affairs present this resolution to Vice President and Treasurer David Provost and the administration,

That, the college use divestment from fossil fuels as an opportunity to shift our investments towards more ethical companies and sectors that align with Middlebury's mission, such as environmental sustainability, racial justice, and gender equality, following the guidelines for ethical investing set by the [ACSRI](#),

That, the Board of Trustees work with the SLSEA to reinstate the ACSRI, or another similar committee, to uphold these standards,

¹ <http://sites.middlebury.edu/peopleshistory/protest/student-involvement-in-the-south-african-divestment-movement-the-armadillos-wall-2/>

² <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-these-numbers-tell-us-about-the-gun-debate-in-2019>

That, the college's actions set a standard for both ethical and transparent investing at Middlebury and peer institutions.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Finkelstein, Feb Senator

16-0-0 [Motion passed. Voting Proceeds.]

14-0-2 [Senator Brady and Proxy Smith abstain, passed.]